



PATENT 03188-P0001A GSW/DJV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	Geoffrey H. Gill, et al.	Geoffrey H. Gill, et al.	
Serial No. 09/515,724	Filing Date: February 29, 2000	Filing Date: February 29, 2000	
Title of Application:	System For Anonymously Purchasing G And Services Over The Internet	System For Anonymously Purchasing Goods And Services Over The Internet	
Confirmation No. 1108	Art Unit: 3628	/EN	
Examiner	Debora F. Charles		

MAR - 2 2004

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents Commissioner for Patents Post Office Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

GROUP 3600

Transmittal of Appeal Brief (Patent Application - 37 C.F.R. 192)

- 1. Transmitted herewith, in triplicate, is the APPEAL BRIEF in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on December 23, 2003.
- 2. <u>Status of Applicant</u>. This application is on behalf of other than a small entity.
- 3. <u>Fee for Filing Appeal Brief</u>. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(f), the fee for filing the Appeal Brief is \$165.00.
- 4. <u>Total Fee Due Fee Payment</u>: Attached is a check in the amount of \$165.00.

<u>Certificate of Mailing</u>: I hereby certify that this correspondence is today being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Missing Parts; Assistant Commissioner for Patents; Post Office Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

February 23, 2004

Caroline Gahagar

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Serial No. 09/515,724

Applicants: Geoffrey H. Gill, et al.

5. <u>Fee Deficiency</u>. If any additional extension and/or fee is required, please charge Account No. 19-4516.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appeal Brief Under 37 C.F.R. §1.192

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PATENT

GROUP 3600

Having filed a Notice of Appeal on December 23, 2003, based on a final rejection, mailed on September 24, 2003, of currently pending claims 1-17, Appellant submits its Appeal Brief for the above-captioned application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.192 in triplicate as follows.

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Appeal Brief under 37 CFR §1.192

Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Geoffrey Gill residing at 110 Willet Road, Saunder

Town, RI 02874.

Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences.

Status Of Claims

Claims 1-17 are currently pending, stand finally rejected, and are the subject of

the instant Appeal. A copy of each of these claims is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Status Of Amendments

Appellant has filed no Amendments since the mailing of the Final Rejection on

September 24, 2003.

Summary Of Invention

With respect to claims 1, 9 and 17, Appellant discloses systems and methods,

which enables the generation of a money code over the Internet that contains no

identification data related to a user and is therefore untraceable to a user in a manner

that is similar to when a transaction is completed through the use of some medium of

exchange such as paper currency, precious stones, coinage and the like.

References Cited And Applied

U.S. Patent No. 6,327,578 B1 to Linehan; et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,529,885 B1 to Johnson; and

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U.S. Patent No. 5,913,203 A to Wong et al.

Grounds Of Rejection

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linehan, Johnson and Wong et al.

Issues Presented For Review

Whether Linehan, Johnson and Wong et al. teach or suggest the generation of a money code over the Internet, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer.

Grouping of Claims

The claims do not stand or fall together. The invention is claimed from several perspectives, each defining the invention in materially different terms.

Each of the dependent claims adds specific additional elements to the novel combination of the independent claims. As such, all claims must be considered because it is improper to fail to consider any limitation in the claims. <u>In re Geerdes</u>, 491 F.2d 1260, 1262, 180 U.S.P.Q. 789, the 791 (CCPA 1974) ("every limitation in the claim must be given effect rather than considering one in isolation from the others").

Argument

The present invention pertains to systems and methods, which enable the generation of a money code over the Internet, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer thereby facilitating anonymous transactions over the Internet. An anonymous

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transaction is defined as one in which the money code contains no identification data related to a user and is therefore untraceable to a user in a manner that is similar to when a transaction is completed through the use of some medium of exchange such as paper currency, precious stones, coinage and the like.

Realizing this type of transaction anonymously on the Internet is a problem because the seller has difficulty assessing the value of the money code and difficulties taking ownership of the specified amount of medium of exchange that the buyer and seller have agreed to without linking the money code with the person utilizing it.

Claims 1-17 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linehan, Johnson and Wong et al. In Linehan, all the embodiments that would relate to the present invention utilize the issuer gateway process of FIG. 8. As a result, step 808 describes how the issuer gateway confirms that consumer's credit for transaction is sufficient for the transaction and therefore there is a direct link between the customer and the money coded. In contrast, the present invention is designed to remove this step because the money code will not have any consumer information attached to it in any way.

The Examiner acknowledges this fact numerous times in the final rejection by citing various section of Linehan such as Table 1 in col. 11, col. 13, lines 60-67 and col. 14, lines 1-15, claim 1, col. 4, lines 15-25, col. 6, lines 12-35 and lines 45-67. On page 6 of the final rejection, first full sentence, the Examiner explicitly concedes this point and Applicant agrees with such a conclusion. Consequently, the teachings of Linehan cannot provide a money code containing no identification data related to a customer as is claimed by the present invention.

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The Examiner then cites Johnson (page 6 of the final rejection), col. 23, lines 5-50, to show how directory software can be used to allow complex transactions to be executed in an anonymous mode where the parties can only be identified by their ID. This is in direct contradiction to the teachings of the present invention because the money code in the present invention does not contain any customer information. The customer of the present invention may be aware of information about the money code such as a PIN number or its value, but the money code contains no information about the customer. Therefore, Johnson does not teach or suggest the money as is claimed by the present invention.

The Examiner then cites Wong at col. 6, lines 45-60 as teaching generating a totally anonymous money code over the Internet, which is incorrect because the embodiment in which the money code can be purchased over the Internet does not teach this. For example, FIGS. 1 and 2 (Cat I system discussed at col. 10, lines 49-61) show that the first entity can spend the money code over the Internet but it cannot be generated over the internet (as indicated by the data flow arrows on line 2). In other words, in FIGS. 1 and 2, the Internet is only used to deactivate the money code and therefore the category one systems are not relevant to the present invention because the present invention claims, "software executing on said issuer computer for receiving said money code and a money amount from a customer, assigning an associated money value to said money code based on said money amount received from the customer". Therefore the present invention can generate a money code for a customer over the Internet.

Wong does teach a way to purchase a money code over the Internet (Cat II discussed at col. 10, lines 49-61), however, the teachings of this embodiment <u>cannot</u> provide the totally anonymous money codes of the present invention. This is explicitly stated at col. 10, lines 51-54, Wong teaches that, "category II (Cat II) cash refers to

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pseudo cash units created by the system that can only be traced through the bank of origin, or the nerve center. For instance, at col. 8, lines 34-40, Wong teaches:

In this system and method, the first entity 1 <u>must</u> first establish a business relationship with the pseudo cash repository 3. Once this relationship is established, a first entity account file 17 is maintained by the pseudo cash repository 3 which includes the <u>identity</u> 18, the user key 8 and the user insertion key 9 of the first entity 1.

Therefore Wong never teaches the generation of a money code over the Internet, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer as is claimed by the present invention.

Consequently, the combination of Linehan, Johnson and Wong do not teach or suggest the generation of a money code over the Internet, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer as is claimed by the present invention. As such, the present invention is patentably distinct from the references of record.

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Conclusion

Appellant has made a significant advance over the prior art by providing systems and methods for the generation of a money code over the Internet, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer as is claimed by the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

February 23, 2004

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EXHIBIT A - Pending Claims

1. A system for anonymously purchasing goods and services over the Internet comprising:

a communications system;

a customer computer linked to said communications system;

an issuer computer linked to said communications system;

a merchant computer linked to said communications system;

a financial institution computer linked to said communications system;

a money code, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer;

software executing on said issuer computer for receiving said money code and a money amount from a customer, assigning an associated money value to said money code based on said money amount received from the customer, and transmitting said money code and associated money value to said financial institution computer over said communications system;

software executing on said financial institution computer for receiving said money code and associated money value transmitted by said issuer computer and storing said money code and associated money value;

software executing on said customer computer for transmitting an order and said money code to said merchant computer over said communications system;

software executing on said merchant computer for receiving said order and money code from said customer computer, determining a money amount due for said order, and transferring said money code and money amount due to said financial institution computer over said communications system, and,

software executing on said financial institution computer for receiving said money code and money amount due from said merchant computer, comparing said money amount due to said associated money value, and notifying said merchant computer of fund availability.

- 2. The system of Claim 1 further comprising software executing on said customer computer for generating said money code and storing said money code on a storage device.
- 3. The system of Claim 2 further comprising software executing on said customer computer for generating a personal identification code to be associated with said money code for controlling access and use of said money code
- 4. The system of Claim 3 further comprising software executing on said customer computer for encrypting said money code based on said personal identification code prior to storing said money code on said storage device.
- 5. The system of Claim 4 further comprising software executing on said customer computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer, retrieving said money code from said storage device, and decrypting said money code based on said personal identification code prior to transmitting said money code to said merchant computer.
 - 6. The system of Claim 4 further comprising:

software executing on said merchant computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer upon receipt of said order and money code;

software executing on said customer computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer and transmitting said personal identification code to said merchant computer;

software executing on said merchant computer for receiving said personal identification code from the customer and transmitting said personal identification code in addition to the money code and money amount due to said financial institution computer over said communications system; and,

software executing on said financial institution computer for receiving said money code, money amount due, and personal identification code and decrypting said money code using said personal identification code prior to determining fund availability.

- 7. The system of Claim 1 wherein said communications system comprises the Internet.
- 8. The system of Claim 7 further comprising software executing on said merchant computer for operating and maintaining an Internet website, accessible by the customer, for facilitating commercial transactions between the customer and a merchant.
- 9. A system for anonymously purchasing goods and services over the Internet comprising:

a communications system;

a customer computer linked to said communications system;

an issuer computer linked to said communications system;

a merchant computer linked to said communications system;

a financial institution computer linked to said communications system;

a money code, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer;

software executing on said issuer computer for receiving a money amount from a customer, generating said money code, assigning an associated money value to said money code based on said money amount received from the customer, presenting said money code to the customer, and transferring said money code and associated money value to said financial institution computer over said communications system;

software executing on said financial institution computer for receiving said money code and associated money value transmitted by said issuer computer and storing said money code and associated money;

software executing on said customer computer for transmitting an order and said money code to said merchant computer over said communications system;

software executing on said merchant computer for receiving said order and money code from said customer computer, determining a money amount due for said order, transferring said money code and money amount due to said financial institution computer over said communications system, and,

software executing on said financial institution computer for receiving said money code and money amount due from said merchant computer, comparing said money amount due to said associated money value, and notifying said merchant computer of fund availability.

10. The system of Claim 9 further comprising software executing on said customer computer for receiving said money code and storing said money code on a storage device.

- 11. The system of Claim 10 further comprising software executing on said customer computer for generating a personal identification code to be associated with said money code for controlling access and use of said money code.
- 12. The system of Claim 11 further comprising software executing on said customer computer for encrypting said money code based on said personal identification code prior to storing said money code on said storage device.
- 13. The system of Claim 12 further comprising software executing on said customer computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer, retrieving said money code from said storage device, and decrypting said money code based on said personal identification code prior to transmitting said money code to said merchant computer.

14. The system of Claim 12 further comprising:

software executing on said merchant computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer upon receipt of said order and money code;

software executing on said customer computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer and transmitting said personal identification code to said merchant computer;

software executing on said merchant computer for receiving said personal identification code from the customer and transmitting said personal identification code, in addition to said money code and money amount due to said financial institution computer over said communications system; and,

software executing on said financial institution computer for receiving said money code, money amount due, and personal identification code and decrypting the money code using said personal identification code prior to determining fund availability.

- 15. The system of Claim 9 wherein said communications system comprises the Internet.
- 16. The system of Claim 15 further comprising software executing on said merchant computer for operating and maintaining an Internet website, accessible by the customer, for facilitating commercial transactions between the customer and a merchant.
- 17. A method for anonymously purchasing goods and services over the Internet comprising:

assigning an associated money value to a money code corresponding to a money amount surrendered to an issuer by a customer, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer;

inputting said money code and associated money value into said issuer computer;

transmitting said money code and associated money value from said issuer computer to a financial institution computer over a communications system;

storing said money code and associated money value on said financial institution computer;

transmitting an order and said money code from a customer computer to said merchant computer over said communications system,

transmitting said money code and a money amount due from said merchant computer to said financial institution computer over said communications system; and

verifying fund availability by comparing said money amount due to said associated money value on said financial institution computer.